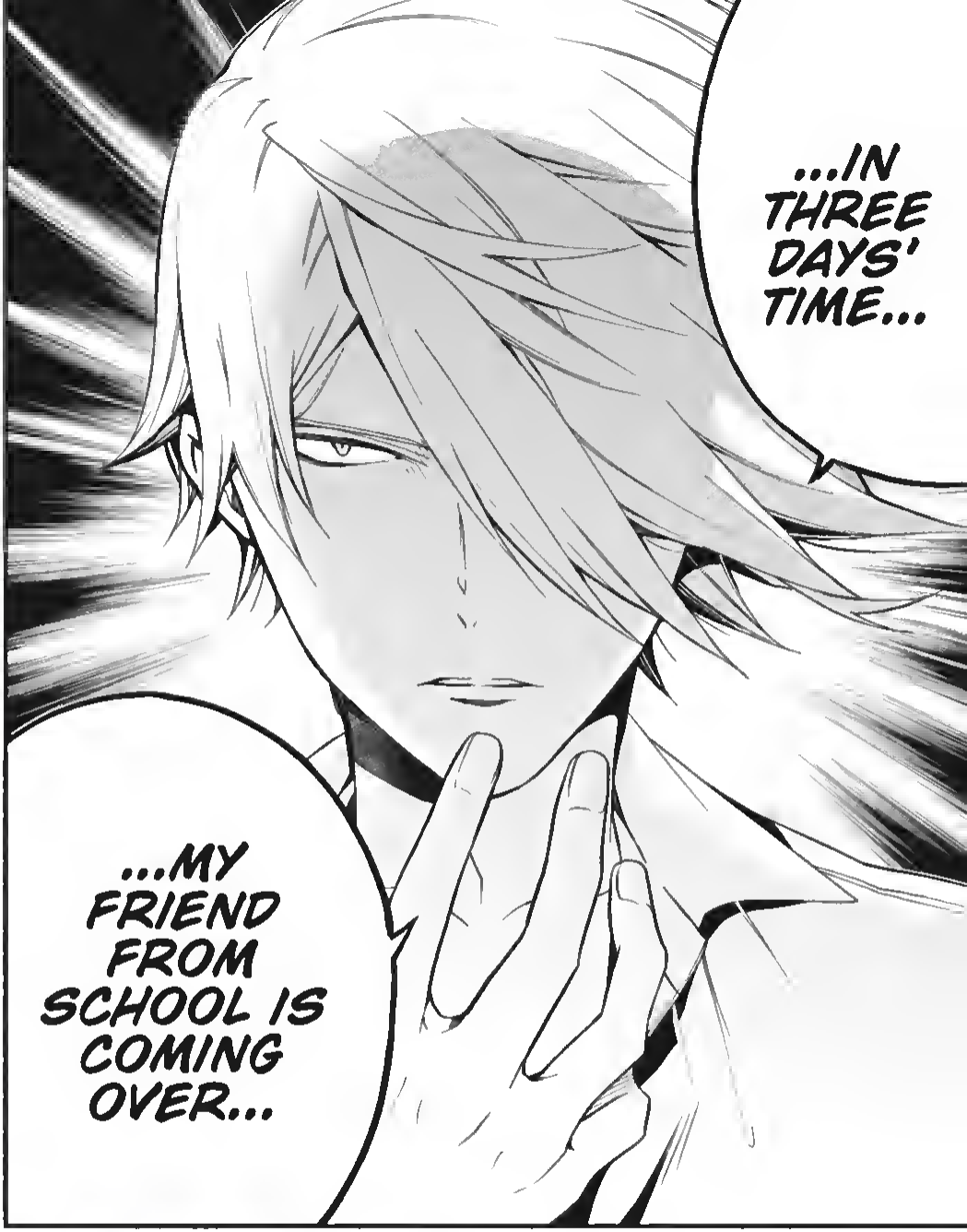
THE ROYAL TUTOR

Chapter 43

Higasa Akai

Chapter 43
A True Friend


...IN THREE DAYS' TIME...
...MY FRIEND FROM SCHOOL IS COMING OVER...

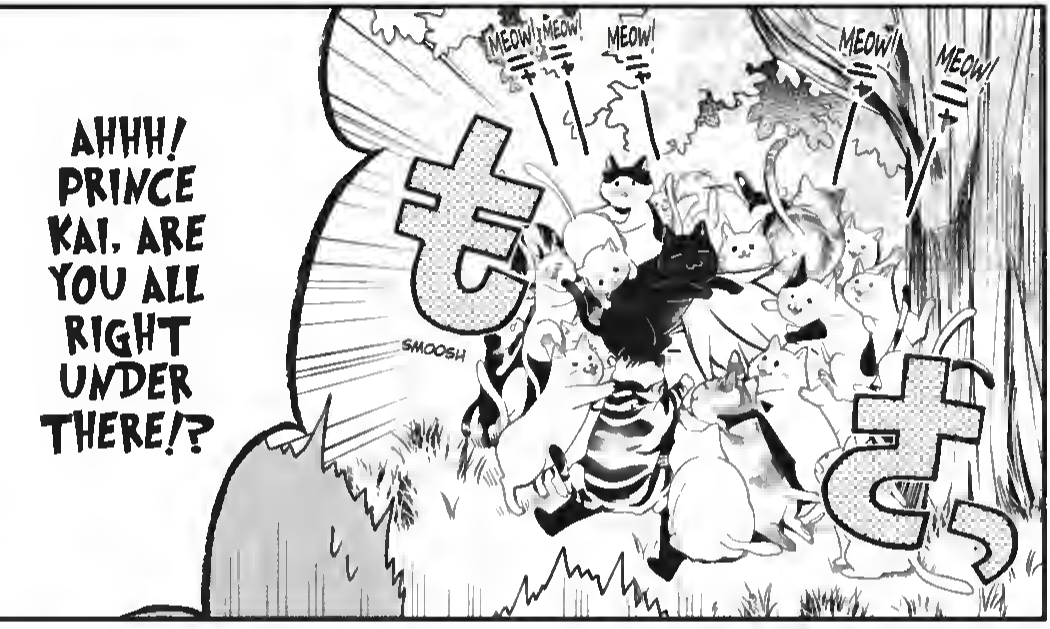
WHAAT!?

UMM...
POP

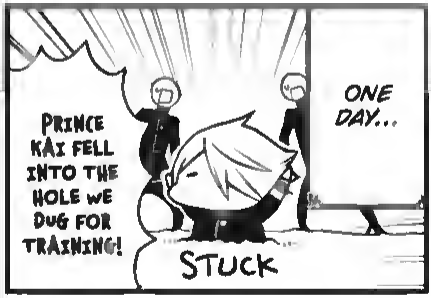
CONGRATULATIONS, DEAR BROTHER!
CLAP
KAINIE, YOU MADE A FRIEND!?
THAT'S BRILLIANT!
PRINCE KAI, WHOSE SHARP GAZE HAS PREVENTED HIM FROM KEEPING CLOSE COMPANY, HAS MADE A FRIEND...
.....
GLARE
KAI...
WHEW.
DO CALM DOWN, YOUR MAJESTY.
SOB
SOB
SOB
A F-F-F-F-FRIEND...! KAI...HAS A FRIEND! OH, HEIIIINE!

AT FIRST... BECAUSE OF MY HARSH EYES...AND MY SUSPENSION ...
...EVERYONE SEEMED AFRAID OF ME...
...BUT THEN...
SNIFFLE
HERE YOU ARE
PURR
PURR
MEOW!
...!
MURMUR
HM
RIGHT. THAT ALL-TOO-COMMON PATTERN WHERE SOMEONE YOU THOUGHT WAS SCARY TURNS OUT TO BE A GENTLE SOUL!
OF COURSE!

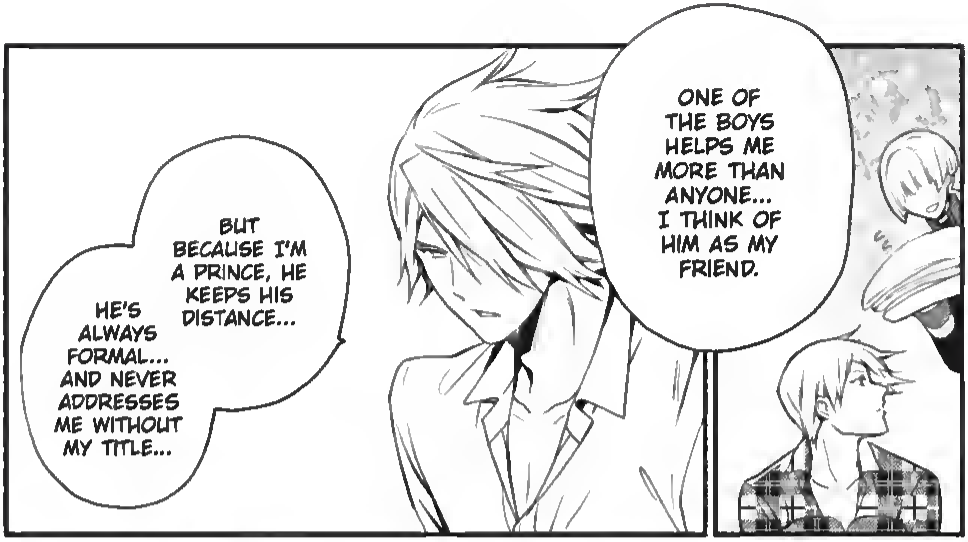
MEOW!
MEOW!
MEOW!


AHHH! PRINCE KAI, ARE YOU ALL RIGHT UNDER THERE!?
MEOW!
MEOW!
MEOW!
MEOW!
MEOW!
SMOOSH

CAN'T LEAVE HIM ON HIS OWN
PRINCE KAI, YOU'RE IN YOUR PAJAMAS!!
SOMEONE GET HIS HIGHNESS CLOTHES!
FOR SOME REASON... EVERYONE COMES TO MY RESCUE...
THAT IS MOST FORTUNATE, PRINCE KAI...
NOW I'M CONCERNED IN A NEW WAY


ONE DAY...
PRINCE KAI FELL INTO THE HOLE WE DUG FOR TRAINING!
STUCK

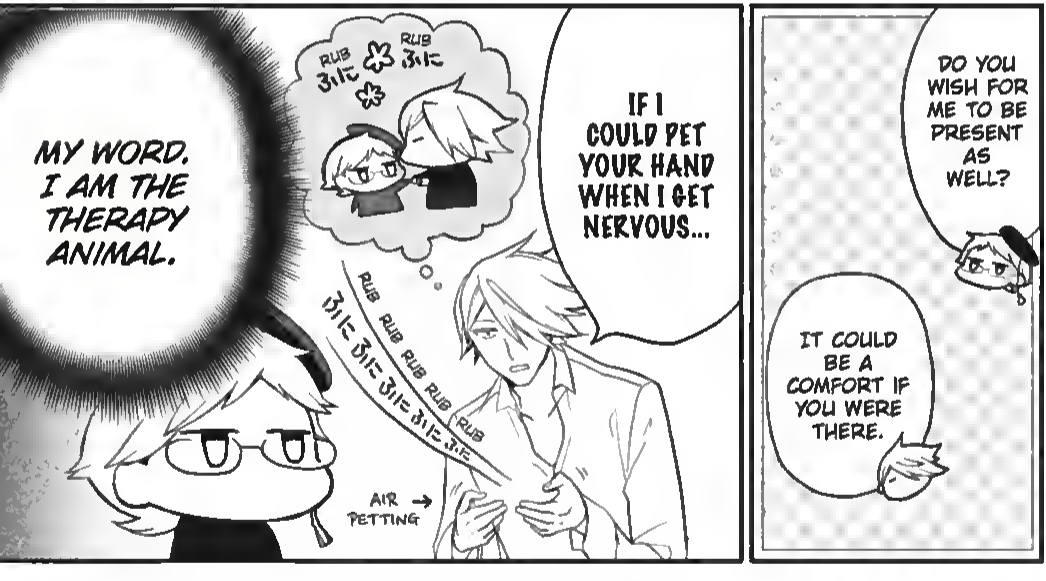
ANOTHER DAY...
PRINCE KAI! IT'S ALMOST TIME FOR CLASS!

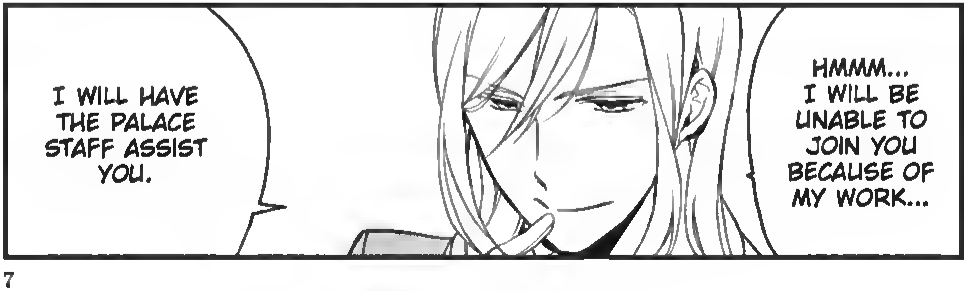

ONE OF THE BOYS HELPS ME MORE THAN ANYONE... I THINK OF HIM AS MY FRIEND.
BUT BECAUSE I'M A PRINCE, HE KEEPS HIS DISTANCE...
HE'S ALWAYS FORMAL... AND NEVER ADDRESSES ME WITHOUT MY TITLE...

I WANT TO BE REAL FRIENDS WITH HIM...
...SO I INVITED HIM TO THE PALACE FOR TEa...
...BUT I'M WORRIED... IF I CAN MAKE CONVERSATION ON MY OWN...

WELL, I SUPPOSE I DON'T MIND...
STILL, WE'VE NEVER MET THE FELLOW. ARE YOU CERTAIN?
HUH?
SO I WAS HOPING... YOU'D ALL BE THERE TOO...

ALL RIGHT, ALL RIGHT! YOU'RE TOO ANXIOUS TO DO IT ALONE. I UNDER-STAND!!
ぶる
TREMBLE
ぶる
TREMBLE
EYES PLEADING FOR HELP


MY WORD. I AM THE THERAPY ANIMAL.
RUB ぷに
RUB ぷに
IF I COULD PET YOUR HAND WHEN I GET NERVOUS...
RUB RUB RUB RUB RUB
ぷにぷにぷにぷにぷに
AIR PETTING
DO YOU WISH FOR ME TO BE PRESENT AS WELL?
IT COULD BE A COMFORT IF YOU WERE THERE.


I WILL HAVE THE PALACE STAFF ASSIST YOU.
HMMM... I WILL BE UNABLE TO JOIN YOU BECAUSE OF MY WORK...

YEAAAHHH!
...WE WILL GIVE KAI'S FRIEND A GRAND WELCOME!
TOGETHER ...

THEN HE WAS ABLE TO FIT IN AT THE MILITARY ACADEMY UPON HIS RETURN... THANK GOODNESS.
WHAT!?
PRINCE KAI HAS MADE HIS FIRST FRIEND!?

SHWIP
EVERYONE'S IN SUCH HIGH SPIRITS! IT FEELS LIKE THE CARNIVAL'S HERE!
WE SHALL GUARD THE PALACE WITH AN EVEN MORE WATCHFUL EYE THAN USUAL FOR PRINCE KAI'S BIG DAY!

SNIFFLE
SNIFFLE
O-OUR PRINCE KAI, WHO WAS SO AWKWARD EVEN IN SPEAKING TO US SERVANTS, HAS A FRIEND...!
I MEAN NO DISRESPECT, BUT I FEEL LIKE HIS HIGHNESS'S PROTECTIVE OLDER SISTER.
I KNOW WHAT YOU MEAN!

THE BIG DAY
ドキドキ
BADUM
BADUM
BADUM
BADUM
BADUM
WHA!?
HAAH...
YOU ARE MAKING TOO MUCH OF THIS. IT IS DISGRACE-FUL.
そわそわ
FIDGET FIDGET
D-DO I LOOK ALL RIGHT? MY HAIR ISN'T STICKING UP?

AH!...
WELL, LOOK AT THAT. TEACH IS NERVOUS TOO.
SMIRK
にやり。
FIDGET FIDGET
そわそわ
FIDGET FIDGET
そわそわ
BLUSH
しゃん…
I-I MUST CONFESS, I DO NOT KNOW WHAT HAS COME OVER ME.
PRINCE KAI HAS MADE A FRIEND...
I AM BOTH PLEASED AND RESTLESS ...
LOOK HOW DEEPLY MASTER CARES FOR HIS PUPILS...FOR HIS PERFECT COMPOSURE TO FALTER...TRULY, HE IS THE EPITOME OF AN EDUCATOR!
OHHH!
BRAVO, MAS-TER!!
THAT'S A FAR CRY FROM WHAT YOU SAID TO ME...
SO MUCH FOR IT BEING DISGRACE-FUL...

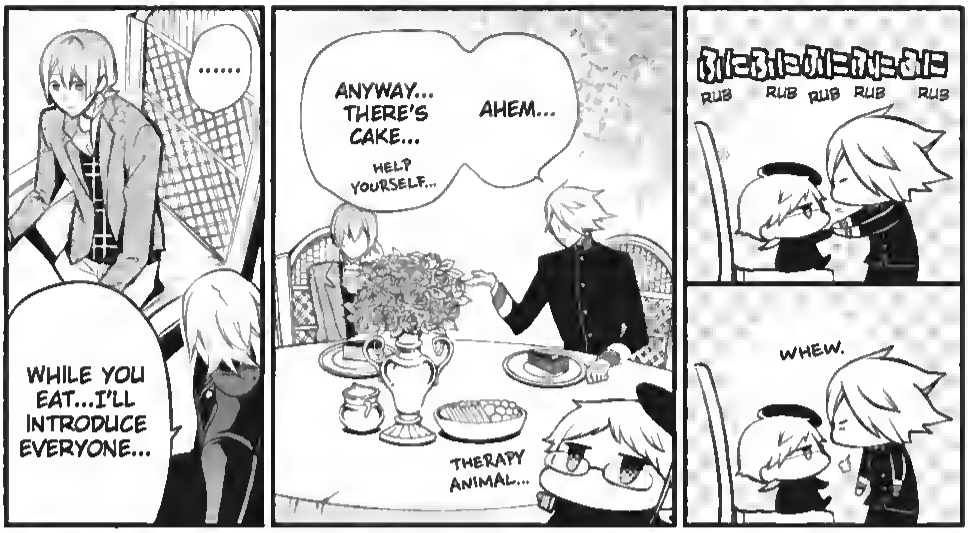
AH. HE'S HERE.
RATTLE RATTLE
RATTLE RATTLE
YES, YOUR HIGH-NESS!
GET READY, EVERYONE. REMEMBER THE PLAN.
KCHAK

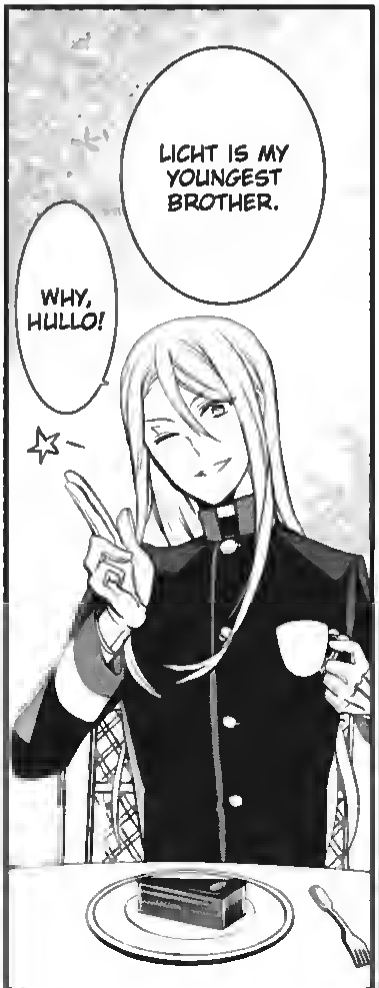
AH!
PRINCE KAI...
TMD
...I'VE BEEN LOOKING FORWARD TO YOUR VISIT.
SO HAS THE REST OF THE PALACE.
ELMER...
TH...THANK YOU TERRIBLY FOR YOUR GRACIOUS INVITATION!!
FLAPPP

TA-DAAA
WEL-
COME...
...TO
WEIS-
BURG
PAL-
ACE!!
HUH!?
WHUUUH!?

WHOOOOSH
THIS WAY, PLEASE, SIR.
YOUR TEA WILL BE SERVED IN THE COURT-YARD.
WOW...
IT'S STUNNING...

CHOCOLATE CREAM SPREAD BETWEEN LAYERS OF SPONGE CAKE AND TOPPED WITH CARAMEL FOR A SWEET, MATURE TASTE.
TODAY'S DESSERT...
...IS A DOBOS TORTE.
YAAAY! DESSERT, DESSERT! ♪
.....
.....
.....
Leonie, slow down!
PLEASE RELAX AND ENJOY.


.....
WHILE YOU EAT...I'LL INTRODUCE EVERYONE...
ANYWAY... THERE'S CAKE...
HELP YOURSELF...
AHEM...
THERAPY ANIMAL...
RUB RUB RUB RUB RUB
WHEW.

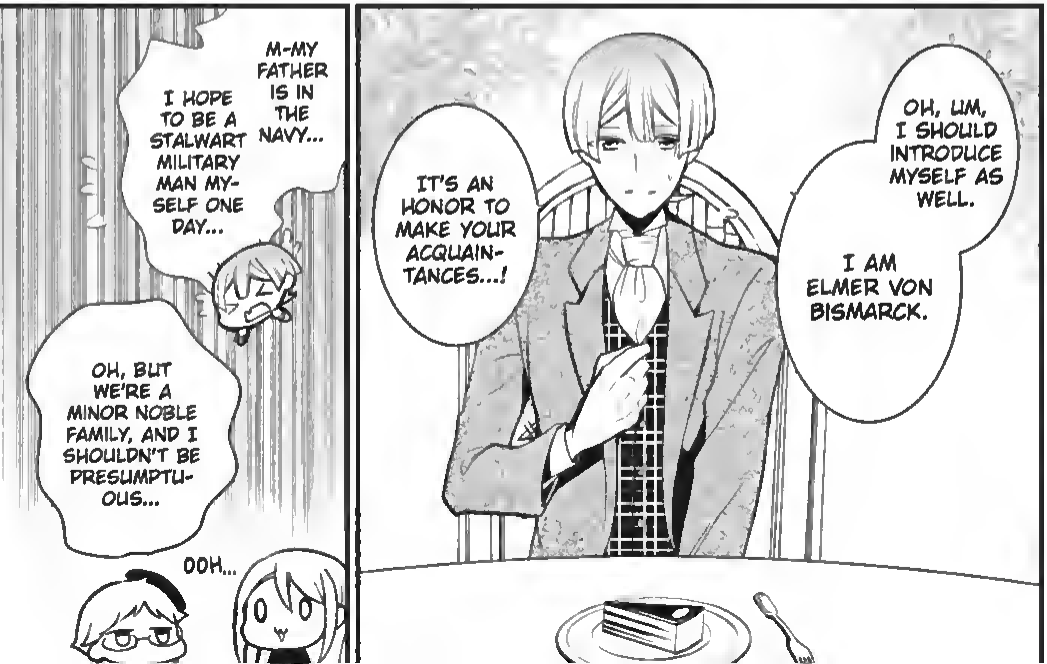

LICHT IS MY YOUNGEST BROTHER.
WHY, HULLO!

LEONHARD IS MY NEXT-YOUNGEST BROTHER...
STAAARE

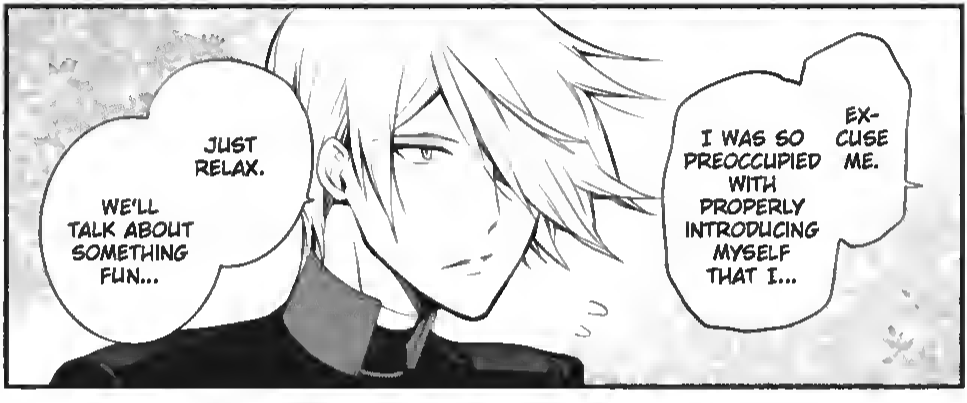
THIS IS BRUNO, THE THIRD-ELDEST PRINCE...
THANK YOU FOR KEEPING COMPANY WITH MY BROTHER.

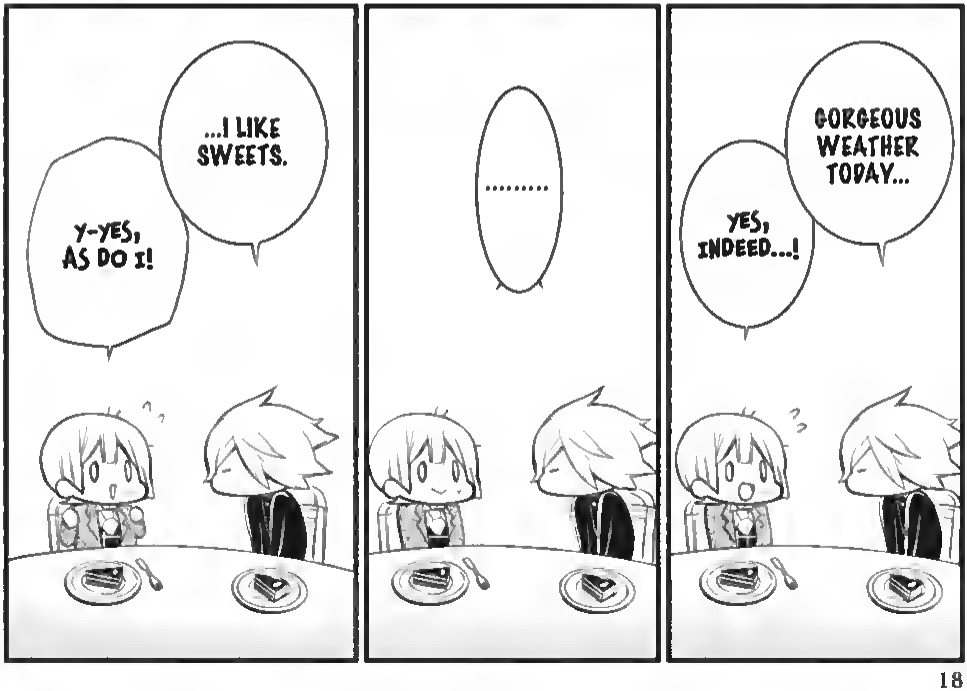
WAIT, ONE MORE YOUNGER BROTHER...?
?
AND THEN THERE'S ...

I AM A FULL-GROWN MAN, THANK YOU VERY MUCH. I AM HEINE, THE ROYAL TUTOR.
REALLY !!?
B-BEG PARDON!!
FLUME
FLUME
IT'S NO BIGGIE. THE MISTAKE'S SO COMMON, IT'S A CUSTOMARY PART OF THE INTRODUC-TIONS!


OH, UM, I SHOULD INTRODUCE MYSELF AS WELL.
I AM ELMER VON BISMARCK.
IT'S AN HONOR TO MAKE YOUR ACQUAIN-TANCES...!
M-MY FATHER IS IN THE NAVY...
I HOPE TO BE A STALWART MILITARY MAN MY-SELF ONE DAY...
OH, BUT WE'RE A MINOR NOBLE FAMILY, AND I SHOULDN'T BE PRESUMPTU-OUS...
OOH...

ARE YOU OKAY...?
HKK!
KOFF!
URK!


JUST RELAX.
WE'LL TALK ABOUT SOMETHING FUN...
I WAS SO PREOCCUPIED WITH PROPERLY INTRODUCING MYSELF THAT I...
EX-CUSE ME.

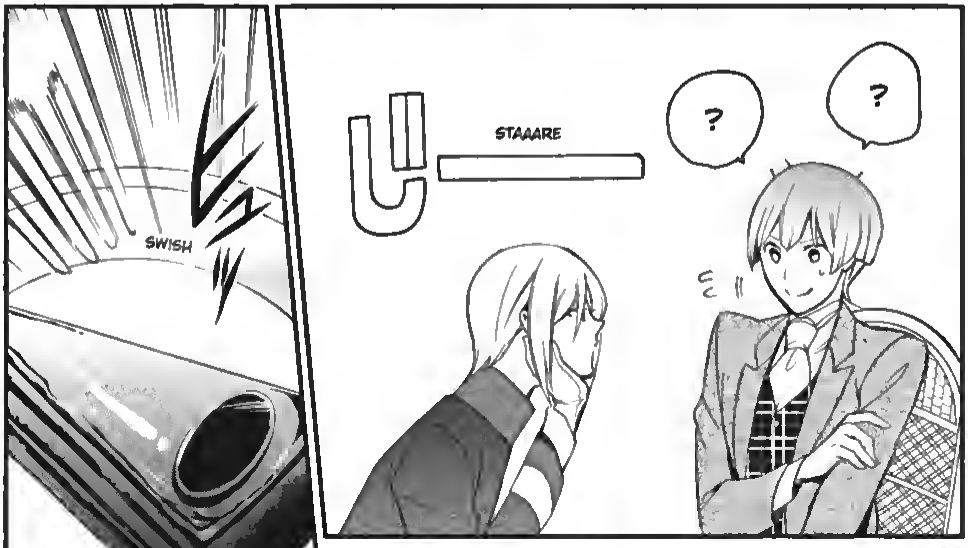

...I LIKE SWEETS.
Y-YES, AS DO I!
.....
GORGEOUS WEATHER TODAY...
YES, INDEED...!

.....
STARE
THAT WAS FAST!
EYES PLEADING FOR HELP
'SCUSE MEEE!
I HAVE A QUESTION~!

SO, ELMER, OLD CHAP, DO YOU HAVE A GIRL-FRIEND?
HOW FAR HAVE YOU GONE?
BOOM
ドンッ
WH—
HOW... FAR?
WHAT THE DEVIL DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING!?
Awww!
THE TOPIC OF LOVE IS A SURE-FIRE WAY TO GET A CONVERSATION ROLLING, ISN'T IT?
IS THE TOPIC LOVE OR LEWD ACTS?
WHAT TRIPE...WE OUGHT TO CONVERSE ON A MORE WORTHWHILE SUBJECT.
YOU SAID YOUR FATHER IS IN THE NAVY? WITH THIS BUSINESS OF EXPANDING THE SEA ROUTES TO THE EASTERN CONTINENT IN COLLABORATION WITH NETERLANDEN PROGRESSING, I BELIEVE IT IS NECESSARY TO DISCUSS THE EFFECTS IT WILL HAVE ON OUR NAVY AND TO RECONSIDER OUR TACTICS...
BABBLE
ペラペラ
BABBLE
BABBLE
ペラ
THIS IS NO BETTER...

I'M SO NERVOUS THAT I CAN'T FIND THE WORDS...
...FORGIVE ME. MY MIND'S GONE BLANK.
WHAT IS YOUR OPINION ON THE MATTER?
HUH?
UH!
YOU'RE ALL SO KIND TO SPEAK TO A PERSON OF LOW STANDING SUCH AS MYSELF...
YOU'VE SHOWN ME SUCH HOSPITALITY...
AND I'VE DONE NOTHING TO DESERVE IT... I CAN'T EVEN THINK OF ANYTHING TO SAY FOR YOUR AMUSEMENT...
ELMER...
CLATTER
I ONLY...!
IT'S NOT LIKE THAT.

STARE


SWISH
STAAARE
?
?

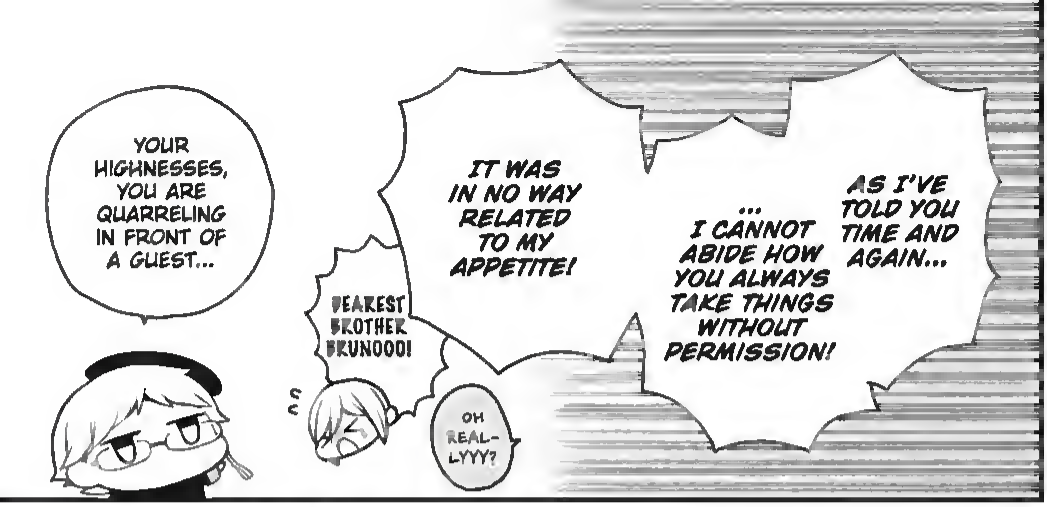
YOINK
CHOMP
AH!

MUNCH
MUNCH
YOU LEFT IT UNTOUCHED TOO LONG, SO YOU FORFEITED IT TO ME.
AHH!!

HOW COULD YOU DO SOMETHING SO GLUTTONOUS...!?
DEAR BROTHER? BUT I
YOU SHOULD KNOW BETTER. BRUNIE SNAPS AT THE LITTLEST THING WHEN FOOD'S INVOLVED.

LEONIE... WERE YOU EYEING IT THIS WHOLE TIME!?
I KNEW YOU WERE TOO QUIET...!

I-IT WAS NOT ABOUT THE PIE!!
PFFT!
ONE TIME WE GOT INTO A HUGE FIGHT SIMPLY BECAUSE I TOOK HIS APPLE PIE!


YOUR HIGHNESSES, YOU ARE QUARRELING IN FRONT OF A GUEST...
DEAREST BROTHER BRUNOOO!
OH REAL-LYYY?
IT WAS IN NO WAY RELATED TO MY APPETITE!
... I CANNOT ABIDE HOW YOU ALWAYS TAKE THINGS WITHOUT PERMISSION!
AS I'VE TOLD YOU TIME AND AGAIN...

.....

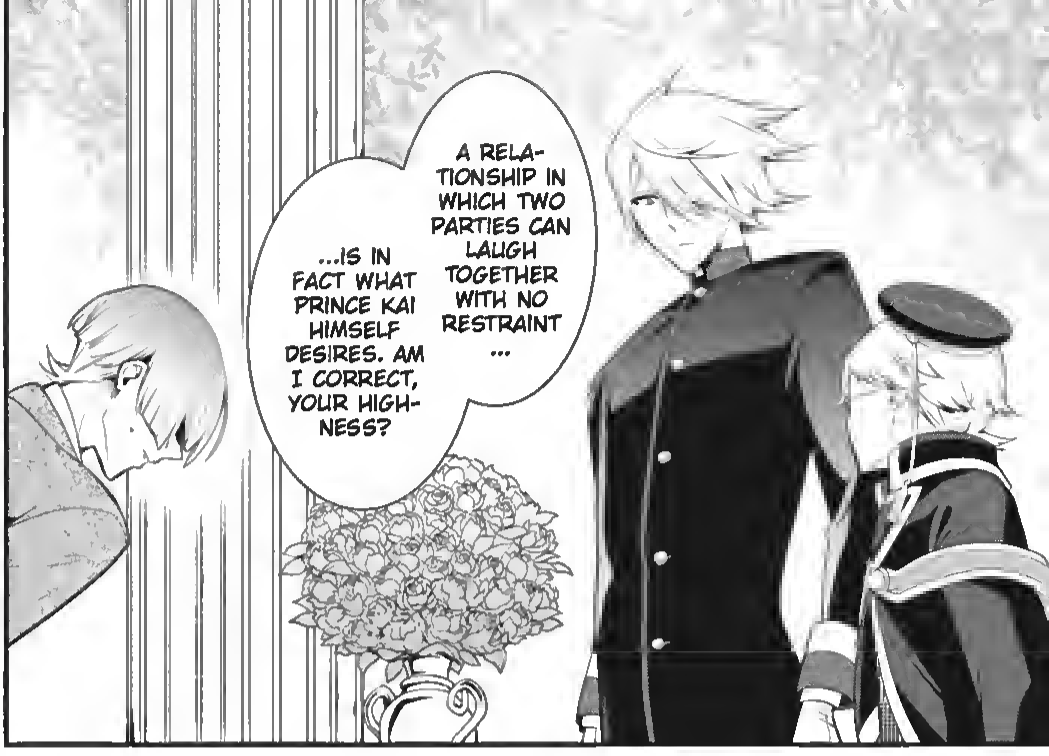
AH!
... ELMER?

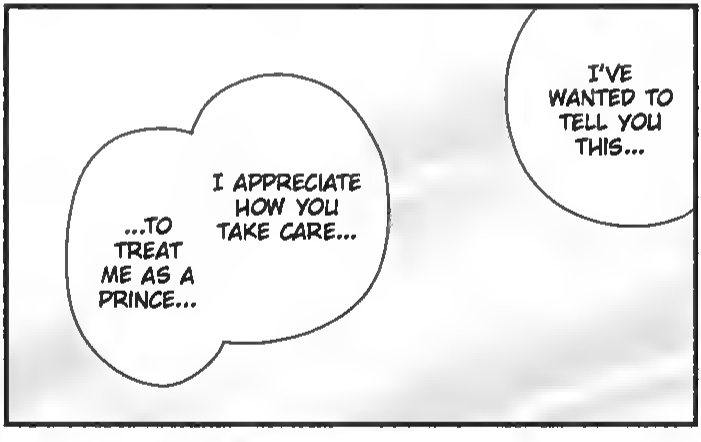
CLATTER
PLEASE TAKE YOUR TIME CHATTING WITH OUR BROTHER—
F-FORGIVE THAT SHAMEFUL DISPLAY! WE WILL EXCUSE OUR-SELVES.
SORRY! WERE WE TOO ROWDY!? DID WE SCARE YOU!?
AH!

PFF...
HA HA!
HA HA HA HA HA!

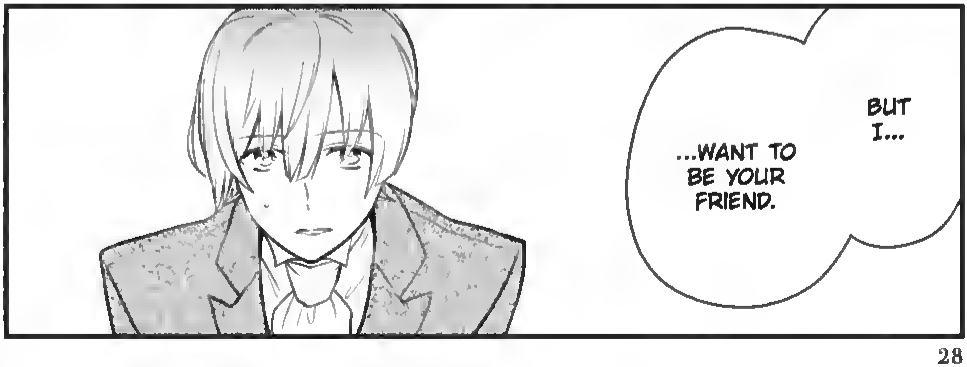
AH-HA-HA! I'M SORRY!
!!?

YOU'RE DEFINITELY PRINCE KAI'S BROTHERS.
YOU AREN'T LIKE PRINCES AT ALL—AND I MEAN THAT IN A GOOD WAY.
.....
THE WAY YOU SNATCHED MY CAKE WAS SO LIKE MY OWN LITTLE BROTHER...
...I STARTED THINKING OF HOW WE QUARREL OVER THE SAME THINGS.
WHAT!?
AH!
I-I AM EXTREMELY SORRY FOR MY INSO-LENCE!
BOLT
SPEAKING TO PRINCES SO CASUALLY... I FORGOT MY PLACE!
AND I WAS BEING SO CAREFUL TO MIND MY MANNERS...!
I BELIEVE YOU ARE WELL WITHIN YOUR PLACE.


A RELATIONSHIP IN WHICH TWO PARTIES CAN LAUGH TOGETHER WITH NO RESTRAINT ...
...IS IN FACT WHAT PRINCE KAI HIMSELF DESIRES. AM I CORRECT, YOUR HIGHNESS?


I'VE WANTED TO TELL YOU THIS...
I APPRECIATE HOW YOU TAKE CARE...
...TO TREAT ME AS A PRINCE...

.....

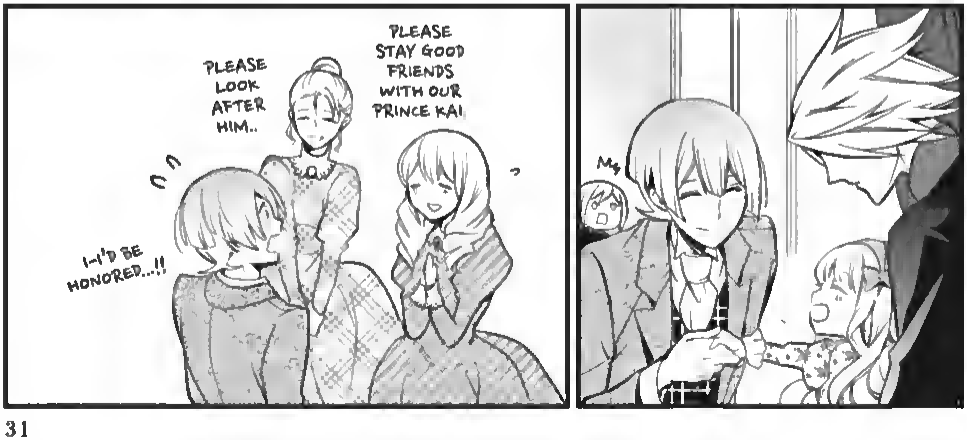

BUT I...
...WANT TO BE YOUR FRIEND.

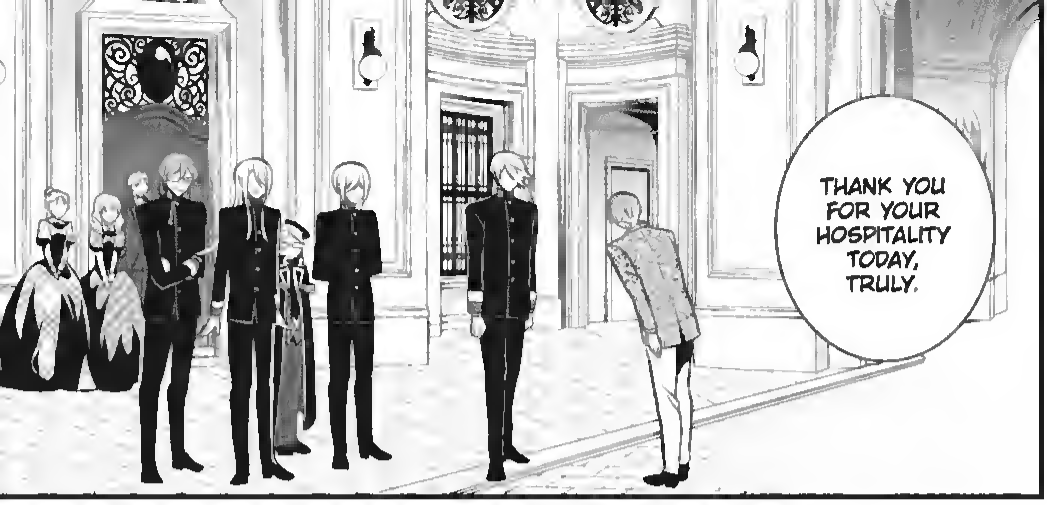
I'D RATHER YOU DROPPED THE FORMALI-TIES...
...AND CALLED ME... "KAI"...
.....

B-
BUT...
TH...
THAT'S
ALL
RIGHT
BY ME!
K...
KAI...
GRINNN
にぱ～っ
.....

"BRU-BRU"!?
I BEG YOUR PAR-DON!!?
AND THEY'RE BRU-BRU AND LEO-LEO!
OOH, OOH! THEN YOU CAN CALL ME "LICHIE"!

HA HA HA HA!
WAAH! AREN'T YOU A GOOD BOY, LEO-LEO!
MUST I!? URRRGH! I CAN JUST GET HIM ANOTHER PIECE, CAN'T I...!?
HMPH.
LEO-LEO, MAKE SURE YOU SAY YOU'RE SORRY FOR EATING HIS CAKE!


PLEASE LOOK AFTER HIM..
PLEASE STAY GOOD FRIENDS WITH OUR PRINCE KAI
I-I'D BE HONORED...!!
My


THANK YOU FOR YOUR HOSPITALITY TODAY, TRULY.

NOW THAT WE'VE GOTTEN TO KNOW EACH OTHER...
...IT WOULD BE WONDERFUL IF WE COULD BE LIFELONG FRIENDS, EVEN AFTER WE GRADUATE...

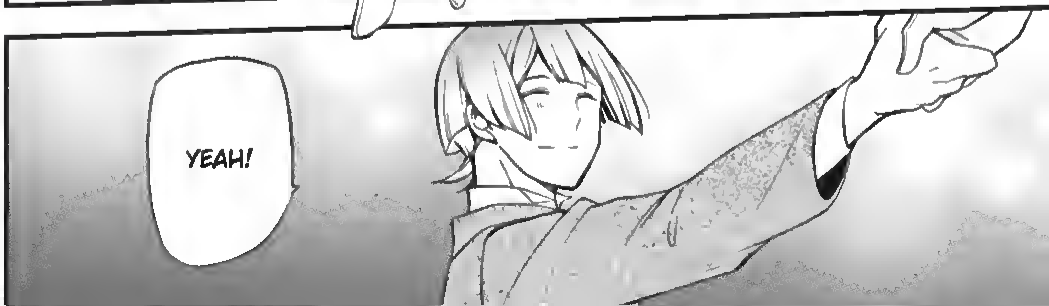
THANKS FOR COMING.
.....

I DON'T KNOW WHERE I'LL BE STATIONED ONCE I'VE JOINED THE MILITARY...
...BUT... I DO HOPE I'LL BE IN THE SAME PLACE AS YOU, KAI.
.....

O-OH, RIGHT! SORRY! I JUST ASSUMED...
IT'S OKAY.

AH!
THAT'S WHY I'M STUDYING AT MILITARY ACADEMY...
ACTU-ALLY...
...I WANT TO BE KING, NOT A MILITARY MAN...

I'M GLAD TO HEAR YOU SAY THAT.
IF WE COULD BE FRIENDS FOR A LONG TIME... LIFELONG FRIENDS...
I'D... LIKE THAT TOO...


YEAH!

HOPE TO SEE YOU ALL AGAIN!
COME OVER AGAIN SOME-TIME!
SEE YOU AT SCHOOL, THEN!
THANKS, EVERYONE.
NOD NOD NOD
こくこくこく
AWWWW, WHAT A GREAT FRIEND! LUCKY YOU, KAINIE!
THANK YOU.
...WE BECAME TRUE FRIENDS.
BECAUSE OF YOUR HELP...

MOREOVER, IT SEEMS OUR GRAND WELCOME CAUSED HIM NEEDLESS ANXIETY.
WE'RE SO SORRY TO HEAR THAT.
ONE WRONG STEP, AND YOUR HIGHNESSES COULD WELL HAVE PUT HIM OFF...
YES, ALTHOUGH IT STRIKES ME AS SOMETHING OF A FLUKE.
GRK!
PERHAPS WE OVER-REACTED...
IT WAS, WELL...THE VERY FIRST TIME A FRIEND OF THE PRINCES HAS VISITED THE PALACE.
PRINCE EINS NEVER HAD ANY FRIENDS VISIT EITHER.
I DON'T REMEMBER IT EVER COMING UP BEFORE.
HUH ...?
WE SPENT ALL THIS TIME WORRYING ABOUT KAI... BUT COULD IT BE THAT WE...
PAT
ISEKAI

I DO HOPE THAT YOUR HIGHNESSES WILL FIND FRIENDS AS WELL.

I-I DON'T NEED FRIENDS...!
IT IS MORE BENEFICIAL FOR ME TO BE IN YOUR COMPANY, MASTER, THAN THAT OF MY CONTEMPORARIES.
AH-HA-HA-HA-HA-HA!
?
Teach, do my fellows at work...
oo friends from work count?
I COULD NOT SAY...

To be continued in the next chapter of The Royal Tutor

The Royal Tutor Chapter 43

Higasa Akai

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